

LOCAL REGION

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January 18, 2014
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Obituaries

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Inaugural radio-a-thon

Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne earns nearly \$9,000 through its first fundraising effort over the airwaves. **PAGE B3**

P.S.

NOTES FROM OUR NOTEBOOKS

GE's move to Florida analyzed

A local reader who is snowbird in Florida mailed us a column from the Tampa Bay Times this past week.

In the column, business columnist Robert Trigaux wrote about General Electric Co's impending move from Fort Edward to Clearwater, Fla.

Trigaux addressed why New York lost 42 percent of its manufacturing jobs from 1990 to 2006, while Florida lost just 18 percent.

Trigaux acknowledged the move to Florida was fueled by Florida's much weaker union presence, lower taxes and a cheaper cost of living. But most importantly, the jobs in Florida won't pay anywhere near the \$29 an hour workers were averaging in Fort Edward.

Trigaux also acknowledged GE's PCB legacy in the Hudson River and ended his column like this:

"Hopefully, GE's expansion here will mean a brighter legacy"

— Ken Trigley

Coffee in Greenwich

The police program known as "Coffee with a Cop" branched into a second local community.

Hudson Falls Police have been using the program, which puts police and senior groups together to educate seniors about safety issues, for several months.

Cambridge-Greenwich Police recently started the program in Greenwich at the request of a local businessman, police Chief George Bell said.

Bell said he met earlier this month with seniors in the village of Greenwich, and additional meetings are planned in the future.

"It's a good program,"

Bell said.

He said he would start the program in Cambridge, too, if there is interest in organizing it.

— Don Lehman

Stolen signs

In other towns, officials have found themselves replacing road signs marking places such as Dick Hill Road and Blood Street because people find them amusing and take them, and in Colorado, the

Millie 470 signs on the highway now read Millie

Boat inspection details emerge

Lake George launch efforts expected to be underway in May

By JAMIE MUNKS
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BOLTON ♦ By month's end, the mandatory boat-wash-

ing and inspection program thought to be the key to heading off the march of invasive species into Lake George may be on the books and headed for implementation this year.

The Lake George Park Commission is expected to vote on the boat-washing and inspection program at its next meeting Jan. 28, which would put

More inside

Warren County board accepts state grant for the purchase of boat-washing stations. **PAGE B3**

the lakewide program on track to starting in mid-May.

"May 15, we're going to be 100 percent on the ground,

running," Lake George Park Commission Executive Director Dave Wick said of the goal Friday during the commission's invasive species committee meeting.

The regulations call for a total of eight boat-washing stations placed at six different points around Lake George.

The program pushes a man-

tra of "clean, drained, dry," and will have inspectors at the launch points around the lake scrutinizing boats entering Lake George for any invasive species. If any evidence of aquatic invaders is found on boats or trailers, they'll be directed to the nearest

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DEREK PRUITT—DPPRUITT@POSTSTAR.COM
Glens Falls Department of Public Works employees Steve Brown, left, and Joe Hill fill potholes Wednesday along Walnut Street in Glens Falls. The department has been using cold patches to fill potholes because hot patching can't start until frost is no longer an issue, usually in March. This year's pothole season is nearly two months early.

Deep impact

By SCOTT DONNELLY
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They are the least-welcome sign of spring, especially in

fore the encounter, potholes are likely to remain the bane of drivers' existence well into the spring, thanks to this winter's strange weather.

Schiavoni said his crews have been using "cold patch," a mix of tar and stone, to fill potholes as they open up, but it's just a temporary fix that

though, area road workers are likely to develop intimate relationships with the area's worst road blemishes. "The repair of them is like

Parole officer faces felony

Veteran state worker is accused of using the drugs she seized

By DON LEHMAN
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GREENWICH ♦ A veteran state parole officer from Greenwich was arrested Thursday for allegedly taking drugs from the parolees she was supervising and falsifying records about the drug seizures, authorities said.

Stacey L. Sullivan, 43, faces a felony count of falsifying business records and a misdemeanor charge of official misconduct, State Police said.

An investigation revealed she had been taking drugs, prescription painkillers in particular, from parolees and using them herself, officials said.

The drugs, illegally possessed by the parolees, could have landed them in trouble, but Sullivan typically ignored the violations when seizing the drugs, authorities said.

Sullivan has been a state parole officer for more than six years and supervises parolees in Schenectady County.

She came under investigation recently when a fellow parole officer noticed drugs Sullivan confiscated from a parolee were not properly logged as evidence, officials said.

That led to an investigation by State Police from the Rotterdam and Greenwich stations. Police said Sullivan admitted she used drugs she took from parolees.

The felony charge accuses her of falsifying evidence logs for drug seizures. She was released pending prosecution in Rotterdam Town Court.

She would not discuss the case during a phone call Friday afternoon.

Taylor Vogt, spokeswoman at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, said Sullivan is

roadway in warmer weather, it just sits there. But when that seepage is followed by cold weather, the water freezes, expands and can lift whole sections of asphalt away from lower layers of pavement.

Small holes and cracks get bigger with each thaw-freeze cycle, leaving ever-larger tire traps.

The region entered January with frigid temperatures. But by the end of the first week, the weather shifted, bringing daytime highs in the 50s, with lots of rain. That was followed

Since then, the area has seen more rain, with warmer-than-average days and freezing nights.

Tod Beadnell, highway operations manager with Warren County Department of Public Works, said he's anticipating larger road repair efforts in the spring, thanks to the strange winter weather.

"The depth of these potholes is what's really surprised me," Beadnell said. "You can normally get a pothole that might have an inch-and-a-half depth to it, but I've seen

more care should be taken if roads are wet, as it's harder to know a pothole's depth when it's full of water.

Drivers are also encouraged to let their municipality's DPW crews know about serious potholes, since it's impossible to patrol all streets or roads every day.

"Anybody who calls, we record it and it is sent directly to the crew foreman in that area," Beadnell said. "If he's not in the middle of a snow-and-ice operation, that is the next responsibility on his list."

Boat inspectors must be hired

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boat-washing station to remove the material before they can launch.

At the southern end, one boat-washing station is planned for Transfer Road in Lake George, near the Lake George transfer station site near Northway Exit 21. That's the only definitive station site for that area, though officials are considering potential alternate sites in the southern basin near the Lake George Association property and at Million Dollar Beach.

Norowal Marina in Bolton and the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Mossy Point launch will each get two boat-washing stations because of how busy both are during the summer months.

One wash station each will be sited at Rogers Rock, also a state-owned launch, Huletts Landing Marina and near the intersection of Bay Road and Route 91 in Queensbury, close to Dunham's Bay. There will also be one back-up boat-washing station, for a total of nine.

This year's inspection program, which will require 45 new Park Commission hires, is expected to run from May 15 to Dec. 1, Wick said.

It hasn't been determined whether all six sites will remain operational between Columbus Day and December, Wick said.

The inspectors, who the Park Commission will hire, will staff the various locations beginning at 6 a.m. and running into the evening — likely until sometime in the 6 to 9 p.m. window, Wick said.

The S.A.V.E. Our Lake Partnership, made up of local government and environmental leaders in the Lake George region, has pushed 24-hour staffing of the launch sites and offered to put up additional money to pay "night monitors" who could staff the sites in the night and early morning hours when the inspectors aren't there. Some of the details related to that proposal, including whether or not those hires would be made through the Park Commission or up to the S.A.V.E. group, haven't yet been determined.

In the past, "we've had to beg, borrow and steal" to get people to have their boats washed. Lake George Supervisor Dennis Dickinson said, "This year, with the mandatory inspection program, they're going to be working for us." The Park Commission has

four boat-washing stations powered with generators, and a roughly \$482,000 state grant was awarded to Warren County to fund up to five more stations. Officials are looking at purchasing electric-powered stations in the future for some of the sites that may be located near residential areas, because they're quieter.

"That way, you'll only hear the spray, not the generators for running," Wick said. "We think that's more appropriate for some of the locations."

If the commission ratifies the regulations later this month, it will then begin to meet with the owners of the various private launches around the lake. They'll be collecting boat registration information from the owners of driveway launches, boat launches owned by homeowners associations around the lake and launches at motels and marinas, to inform those launch owners of their obligations under the program.

The DEC recently proposed rules that would require boat-owners to remove any visible plant or animal materials from boats and trailers before they can be launched at any state launch. That statewide crackdown has no bearing on the Lake George Park Commission plan, but could supplement the Lake George program by creating more awareness, Wick said. There are 24 signs planned

for the watershed that will direct people from main roadways to the boat-washing and inspection sites. The governor's office also contracted the DEC about signage on the Northway alerting people to the locations, Wick said.

Assuming the regulations are approved this month, Lake George Park Commission will begin extensive outreach efforts to make people aware of the new regulations. Information technology staff is developing a website solely for the Lake George boat-washing and inspection program, which will feature an interactive map of the sites around the lake. The lakegeorgeboatinspections.com website is expected to launch in the spring, Wick said.

"We want to make sure everyone from here to New Jersey knows this exists," Wick said.

Supervisor Mitch Suprenant dissenting.

Sunday myself?" Oswald's background includes business consulting.

piece" of the county's effort to ramp up economic development efforts in the future.

P.S.: Goal is suicide prevention

◆ **P.S.**
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The issue, he said, is ice fishermen want to park there and go out on the ice, but their cars block the turnaround site for snowplows, and cars on the sides of the road make it difficult to get by.

"They know if they take the signs down, they can't be ticketed for parking in a no-parking zone," Winchell is going to look into whether he can obtain cheaper signs, in case they are taken again.

Resident Mary Davis said there are signs at the site that normally come down during the winter. One reads, "Parking for Fort Ann residents only," and the other, which pertains to the beach, reads, "Maximum occupancy 100 persons."

She said those signs should come down because Fort Ann residents might argue they should be allowed to park there. Winchell said he will follow up on that.

— Bill Toscano

Birthday remembrance
The late Ayden Burdo will be remembered on

what would have been her 21st birthday.

Her family is planning a major art and music-oriented fundraising event May 10 at Salem Art Works.

Burdo died by suicide on April 24, 2013, and in her memory, her family and friends raised \$12,000 and were among more than 1,500 people who took part in the annual Capital District Walk for R.I.T.A. They took part in the September event as a team called "Roses 4 Ayden." The group will walk again this year and will begin its fundraising with the May 10 celebration called "Art for Ayden: Creativity in Memory."

"We will celebrate her life at this event as we raise money to make sure that no other family has to endure the pain of losing a loved one to suicide," Burdo's mother, Jen Hoffman, wrote in an email. "We are still working out the details, but we are looking for local artisans to donate their artwork to sell at his event," Hoffman continued. "We have a lot of space, so we

are looking for prints, paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry and other items."

"We're also putting a huge call out to any local bands or musicians that would like to donate their time to this event and play a few songs. Ayden also had a passion for spoken-word poetry. It would be amazing to have people that would want to recite some," she added.

All money raised will go toward the next Out of the Darkness Community Walk in Saratoga and to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The Salem Art Works event will start at 1 p.m. Admission will be \$20 for adults and those 10 and younger will be admitted for free.

Additional information is available on the Facebook page "Art for Ayden: Creativity in Memory."

— Bill Toscano

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